

FINANCIAL AND COMMERCIAL.

The Stringency in Money, and the Remedy, National and Local.

Free Banking and the Abolition of the Usury Laws.

The Speculation in Gold Thriving on Opposition.

SATURDAY'S BANK STATEMENT.

Reinforcement of the Reserves—The Deficiency Reduced to \$2,000,000.

WALL STREET, 1873.

Loans	\$22,534,000	\$22,110,400
Specie	18,064,400	16,134,300
Circulation	27,714,400	27,714,400
Deposits	156,950,000	156,950,000
Legal tenders	34,940,500	34,940,500

—The changes being in detail as follows—

Decrease in loans.....\$2,017,100

Increase in specie.....469,900

Decrease in circulation.....178,300

Increase in deposits.....178,300

Increase in legal tenders.....563,300

did we not know that within the next sixty days money, or its paper representative, will be a drug in the market, and be worth as a source of revenue, less than a three per cent British consol. The rise in gold, and the exceeding stringency in money, are both indices of something radically wrong in our monetary system which need remedial action in Congress. Both are more or less the result of artificial manipulation of the markets; but then such individual or clique control ought not to be possible. The remedy of a FREE BANKING LAW, with a provision requiring the country banks to keep a redeeming agent at New York, would go far to give the currency system an elasticity which is now sadly deficient, and which would prevent the enormous depreciation of money from New York in the Spring and Fall and excessive redundancy of it in the idle months of Summer. The repeal of the usury laws in the State of New York, or at least for the metropolitan district, as a supplement to the passage of a free banking law in Congress, would defeat the efforts of combinations to depress the money market. As matters have been the past few weeks money, as a possession or investment, has paid larger proportional dividends than anything on the share list.

as the Wall Street expression goes for transactions in money from day to day, has ranged all the way from 7 to 365 per cent per annum. On Thursday it was thought great hardship to have to pay 3 per cent for money until Saturday, but on Saturday borrowers had to pay as high as 3 per cent for money until Monday. The singular feature of the business is, furthermore, the fluctuation in a single day, which has often been from one of these extremes to the other. That is, money was to be had at some period nearly every day at 7 per cent, or 7 per cent gold, although before or after loans were made at the share list.

of the present crisis. The persistency with which money lenders succeeded in keeping up rates, notwithstanding the steady and abundant influx of currency from the interior, has been paralleled by the success of the gold clique in maintaining the operations against the lighter importations of foreign goods, the lowness of the foreign exchanges and other important influences adverse to their plans, not the least among the last mentioned being the revival of the foreign demand for American government and railroad bonds. With all this the market seemed as pliable as could be in their hands. They opened it in 1872, sold until they depressed it to 117 1/2, and then bought until they raised it on Saturday to 119 1/2. Usually these

operations in gold would have been attended with less success because of the outlet any rise would give to domestic exports. But now the clique mark up gold with comparative impunity, because they know that the prevalent stringency in money prevents the exporters from placing their bills of exchange at equitable rates, a seeming paradox lying in the fact that scarce money, which should depress gold, actually helps its artificial advancement. The speculation at the Stock Exchange has been more conservative under the restraint of the stringency, but the fluctuations in prices have been comparatively narrow. From about Tuesday, when the lower prices were made, to Thursday, there was a general rise and no little buoyancy on the eve of the Good Friday holiday, but the recurrent excessive stringency of Saturday almost undid the improvement. The rise in gold carried up government bonds to the highest figures they have seen in several years, the 70's, for instance, touching 119 1/2, and the sixes of '81, 121.

The following were the closing prices of government bonds on Saturday evening:—United States currency sixes, 119 1/2; 4's do. do., 1891, registered, 117 1/2; 4's do. do., coupon, 1891, 120 1/2; 5's do. do., registered, 118 1/2; 5's do. do., coupon, 1891, 121 1/2; 6's do. do., registered, 119 1/2; 6's do. do., coupon, 1891, 122 1/2; 7's do. do., registered, 120 1/2; 7's do. do., coupon, 1891, 121 1/2; 8's do. do., registered, 121 1/2; 8's do. do., coupon, 1891, 122 1/2; 9's do. do., registered, 122 1/2; 9's do. do., coupon, 1891, 123 1/2; 10's do. do., registered, 123 1/2; 10's do. do., coupon, 1891, 124 1/2.

the extreme fluctuations daily in the price of gold during the week were as follows:—Monday, 118 1/2; Tuesday, 118 1/2; Wednesday, 119 1/2; Thursday, 119 1/2; Friday, 119 1/2; Saturday, 119 1/2.

The last sales were made in 1873, the quotations closing at 118 1/2.

SOUTHERN SECURITIES.

The week was an unusually dull one in the Southern State bonds, and prices remained about steady, the only material changes being in the Tennessee, which declined to 79 3/4, and in the new South Carolina, which advanced to 20. The following were the closing quotations for the Southern list:—Tennessee, ex-coupon, 79 3/4; 7's do., registered, 79 3/4; 7's do., coupon, 80 1/4; 8's do., registered, 80 1/4; 8's do., coupon, 81 1/4; 9's do., registered, 81 1/4; 9's do., coupon, 82 1/4; 10's do., registered, 82 1/4; 10's do., coupon, 83 1/4; 11's do., registered, 83 1/4; 11's do., coupon, 84 1/4; 12's do., registered, 84 1/4; 12's do., coupon, 85 1/4; 13's do., registered, 85 1/4; 13's do., coupon, 86 1/4; 14's do., registered, 86 1/4; 14's do., coupon, 87 1/4; 15's do., registered, 87 1/4; 15's do., coupon, 88 1/4; 16's do., registered, 88 1/4; 16's do., coupon, 89 1/4; 17's do., registered, 89 1/4; 17's do., coupon, 90 1/4; 18's do., registered, 90 1/4; 18's do., coupon, 91 1/4; 19's do., registered, 91 1/4; 19's do., coupon, 92 1/4; 20's do., registered, 92 1/4; 20's do., coupon, 93 1/4; 21's do., registered, 93 1/4; 21's do., coupon, 94 1/4; 22's do., registered, 94 1/4; 22's do., coupon, 95 1/4; 23's do., registered, 95 1/4; 23's do., coupon, 96 1/4; 24's do., registered, 96 1/4; 24's do., coupon, 97 1/4; 25's do., registered, 97 1/4; 25's do., coupon, 98 1/4; 26's do., registered, 98 1/4; 26's do., coupon, 99 1/4; 27's do., registered, 99 1/4; 27's do., coupon, 100 1/4; 28's do., registered, 100 1/4; 28's do., coupon, 101 1/4; 29's do., registered, 101 1/4; 29's do., coupon, 102 1/4; 30's do., registered, 102 1/4; 30's do., coupon, 103 1/4; 31's do., registered, 103 1/4; 31's do., coupon, 104 1/4; 32's do., registered, 104 1/4; 32's do., coupon, 105 1/4; 33's do., registered, 105 1/4; 33's do., coupon, 106 1/4; 34's do., registered, 106 1/4; 34's do., coupon, 107 1/4; 35's do., registered, 107 1/4; 35's do., coupon, 108 1/4; 36's do., registered, 108 1/4; 36's do., coupon, 109 1/4; 37's do., registered, 109 1/4; 37's do., coupon, 110 1/4; 38's do., registered, 110 1/4; 38's do., coupon, 111 1/4; 39's do., registered, 111 1/4; 39's do., coupon, 112 1/4; 40's do., registered, 112 1/4; 40's do., coupon, 113 1/4; 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